

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 08795 011724Z
ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CA-01 DHA-05 L-03 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7891

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FOR ARA/AND/B AND CA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CARR, SHUM, BL (CONNOR, ANASTASIA)
SUBJECT: W/W ARREST: ANASTASIA CONNOR

REF: LA PAZ 8608

1. ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP AND MARYKNOLL SUPERIOR CALLED ON MININT PEREDA OCT 28 TO DISCUSS STATUS OF CONNOR. PEREDA TOLD BISHOP AND SUPERIOR THAT ALTHOUGH THERE ARE CHARGES AGAINST CONNOR, THE MINISTRY WILL NOT PURSUE THEM AND THAT SHE IS FREE TO LEAVE THE CONVENT WITHOUT FEAR OF ARREST UNLESS SHE CONTINUES THE ALLEGED ACTIVITIES THAT LED TO THE CHARGES.

2. ACCORDING TO MARYKNOLL SUPERIOR, CHARGES ARE AS FOLLOWS:
A. A PERSON NAMED MEDRANO IDENTIFIED CONNOR AS A GO-BETWEEN FOR CELLS OF A SUBVERSIVE MINERS' GROUP AT SIGLO VEINTE MINES.

B. THE OWNER OF A COTTON FACTORY WHERE CONNOR WORKED UNTIL FOUR OR FIVE MONTHS AGO SAID THAT SHE USED TO DISTRIBUTE RADICAL LITERATURE TO WORKERS AT THE FACTORY.

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C. CONNOR ALLEGEDLY HELPED A FELLOW FACTORY WORKER WHO WAS A POLITICAL SUSPECT ESCAPE ACROSS THE PERUVIAN BORDER.

3. ACCORDING TO THE MARYKNOLL SUPERIOR, CONNOR IS NOT GUILTY OF ANY OF THESE CHARGES: CONNOR DOES NOT EVEN KNOW MEDRANO AND HAS HAD NO ASSOCIATION WITH THE SIGLO VEINTE

MINES; SHE IS CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN A LEGAL BATTLE WITH THE FACTORY OWNER OVER UNPAID BENEFITS; ALTHOUGH SHE KNOWS THE ESCAPED FACTORY WORKER, SHE DID NOT HELP HIM ESCAPE.

4. MARYKNOLL SUPERIOR TOLD CONSUL THAT BISHOP HAD RAISED QUESTION OF WHY CONNOR HAD BEEN SEIZED FORCEFULLY IF OBJECT WAS SIMPLY TO QUESTION HER ABOUT THESE UNROVEN CHARGES, AS MININT ASSERTED. PEREDA IS SAID TO HAVE ADMITTED THAT THE METHOD OF ARREST WAS IMPROPER AND TO HAVE PROMISED THAT IN THE FUTURE IF MINISTRY HAD ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF ROMAN CATHOLIC CLERGY OR RELIGIOUS IT WOULD CALL THE SUSPECTS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ACCOMPANIED BY THE APPROPRIATE CHURCH OFFICIAL. IN RESPONSE TO BISHOP'S QUESTION, PEREDA IS ALLEGED TO HAVE DENIED THAT CONNOR HAD RIGHT TO HAVE A LAWYER PRESENT.

5. MARYKNOLL SUPERIOR INDICATED THAT CHURCH OFFICIALS ARE SATISFIED FROM TALK WITH PEREDA THAT CONNOR IS IN NO IMMEDIATE DANGER. SHE WILL RESUME HER NURSING STUDIES AT THE CENTROL DE SALUD. CONSUL INFORMED SUPERIOR THAT THE EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION FROM MINISTRY SOURCES WAS BASICALLY THE SAME AS OUTLINED IN PARA 1, INCLUDING THE WARNING AGAINST CONNOR'S ENGAGING IN FURTHER POLITICAL ACTIVITIES WHICH MIGHT BE SEEN AS SUBVERSIVE IN NATURE BY GOB.

BOEKER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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